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Note verbale dated 30 March 2001 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting working papers on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and requests it to circulate the attached working papers (see annexes I and II) as official documents of the Committee.

01-32113 (E) 190401

Annex I

Interpretative statement on section II, paragraph 4, of the draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

Working paper submitted by Switzerland

1. Effective control over the legal manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of small arms and light weapons is an important prerequisite for drawing a clear line between the legal and the illegal nature of the respective activities. It is our understanding that the measures contained in paragraph 4 of section II serve the purpose of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as stated in paragraph 1 of section II.

2. Consequently, the establishment of adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the possession of small arms and light weapons aims primarily at preventing and reducing the diversion of such weapons into illicit channels. That is to say that Swiss legislation places emphasis on the regulation of the acquisition of small arms and light weapons, rather than on possession as such. Switzerland understands its respective national legislation and practice to be fully in line with the purpose mentioned above, namely to prevent the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons.

Annex II

Proposed amendments to the draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

Working paper submitted by Switzerland

Preamble

Paragraph 11

Believing that Governments bear the primary responsibility for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

New paragraph 11 bis

Urging Governments to intensify their efforts to develop an understanding of the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and of practical ways of addressing them;

Paragraph 16, footnote 1

We request that the following events be added to the list of initiatives undertaken at the regional and subregional levels:

- NATO/EAPC Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Export Controls and Transfers, Brussels, 16-17 March 2000;
- Second Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network, Lucerne, Switzerland, 11-12 May 2000;
- EAPC/PfP Workshop in support of the South-East Europe Initiative (SEEI) on Regional Cooperation in South-East Europe and the Challenge of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 22-23 June 2000;
- NATO/EAPC Experts Workshop on Export Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Brussels, 21 November 2000;
- Workshop on Traceability of Small Arms and Light Weapons: Tracing, Marking and Record-keeping, Geneva, 12-13 March 2001;
- PfP Training Course on Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Brugg, Switzerland, 28 May-1 June 2001;
- Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Practical Challenges for the Implementation of Current Undertakings in OSCE and in EAPC, Baku, 21-22 June 2001.

Section II

Paragraph 9

Switzerland supports the inclusion of export criteria as contained in the OSCE document on small arms and light weapons (A/CONF.192/PC/20, sect. III.A, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c)).

Paragraph 13

To supply small arms and light weapons only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments.

Paragraph 34

To support the disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants, including child soldiers, and their subsequent rehabilitation and reintegration into civil society ...

Paragraph 35

Switzerland supports the proposed text, which requests the development of international arrangements and of an international legally binding instrument to enable the timely and reliable tracing of small arms and light weapons. Switzerland suggests adding the words "of small arms and light weapons" after the words "lines of supply". Switzerland also supports the inclusion of a timeline.

Paragraph 37

Switzerland supports the inclusion of language reflecting a political commitment to negotiate an international legally binding instrument on brokering.

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Note verbale dated 30 March 2001 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting, on behalf of Mexico, Switzerland and the United States of America, a working paper on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland, the Permanent Mission of Mexico and the United States Mission to the United Nations present their compliments to the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and request it to circulate attached working paper (see annex) as an official document of the Committee.

01-32119 (E) 110401

Annex

Working paper submitted by Mexico, Switzerland and the United States of America

The following amendments to A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1 are suggested:

Preamble

Paragraph 18

Recognizing that the ~~international~~ Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, **supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, establishes standards and norms that** complement and reinforce efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

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Note verbale dated 30 March 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, transmitting, on behalf of the League of Arab States, draft proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on behalf of the Arab States members of the Arab League, presents a compilation of draft proposals (see annex) on the draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1).

01-32194 (E) 120401

Annex

Drafting proposals submitted by the Arab Group on document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1

The proposed additions appear in **bold** and are underlined.

The proposed deletions appear in *italics* and are in [brackets].

Section I. Preamble

Para 2:

Gravely concerned at the illicit [*manufacture, transfer and*] **proliferation,** circulation **and trafficking** of small arms and light weapons [*and their excessive accumulation and spread*] in many regions of the world, which [have] **originate from** a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic [consequences on] **factors that in turn affect** stability and development.

Para 5:

Concerned also about the close link between terrorism, organized crime and the drug trade, on the one hand, and the [*uncontrolled spread of*] **illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons **in all its aspects** on the other, and stressing the importance of international efforts aimed at combating them.

Para 8: (Maintain the same language of Para 14 in Section I of A/CONF.192/PC/L.4)

Reaffirming also the right of self-determination of all peoples, **in particular peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right.**

Para 9:

Reaffirming also the right of each State to import, **export,** produce and retain small arms and light weapons [*at levels consistent with its legitimate self-defence and security needs*].

Para 14:

Recognizing also the important contribution of civil society in general and non-governmental organizations in particular in preventing and **eradicating** [*reducing the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of*] **the illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons **in all its aspects**.

Para 15:

Recognizing further that these efforts are without prejudice to the positions taken by States on [, *or the importance allocated by them to,*] the priorities accorded to nuclear disarmament, weapons of mass destruction and conventional disarmament **as outlined in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament**.

Para 20 (b):

Developing [*agreed international*] **harmonized** measures to prevent and combat illicit [*arms*] trafficking in [*and manufacturing of*] small **arms** and light weapons [*and to reduce excessive and destabilizing accumulations and transfers of such weapons*] throughout the world.

Para 20 (c):

Placing particular emphasis on the regions of the world where conflicts come to an end and where serious problems with the **illicit** proliferation of small arms and light weapons have to be dealt with urgently.

Para 20 (d):

Mobilizing the political will throughout the international community to prevent and combat illicit [*transfers in and manufacturing of*] **trade in** small arms and light weapons in all [*their*] **its** aspects, and raise awareness of the character and seriousness of the interrelated problems associated with the illicit trafficking in [*and manufacture of*] small arms and light weapons [*and the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of these weapons*].

Section II. Preventing, Combating and Eradicating the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

At the national level :

Para. 4:

To put in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the legal manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction. To ensure that those engaged in illegal manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession can and will be prosecuted under appropriate **national** penal codes.

Para. 5:

To ensure that manufacturers apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each small arm and light weapon as an integral part of the production process. This marking should be unique and should identify the country of manufacture and also provide information that enables the national authorities of that country to identify the manufacturer and serial number, [*so that the authorities concerned*] **and thus** can identify and trace each weapon.

Para. 8:

To ensure accountability for, and the effective tracing of all **small arms and light** weapons **currently** owned [*and*] **or** issued by the State.

Para. 9:

To assess applications for export authorizations according to strict national [*or regional*] criteria that cover all categories of small arms and light weapons.

Para. 12:

To develop national systems for regulating the activities of those who engage in **small** arms **and light weapons** brokering. Such a system could include measures such as registration of brokers, licensing or authorization of brokering as well as the criminalization of all illicit brokering activities performed in their jurisdiction.

Para. 17:

To regularly review the stocks of small arms and light weapons held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies and to ensure that such stocks **declared by competent national authorities to be in** surplus to requirements are clearly identified **by them**, and that programmes for the responsible and expeditious disposal, [*normally through destruction*] of such socks are established and implemented and that such stocks are adequately safeguarded until disposal.

Para. 18:

To destroy surplus small arms and light weapons **which the competent national authorities declare that they no longer need**, using [*internationally accepted and effective procedures and in accordance with*] effective and environmentally sound procedures. [*Surplus weapons retained for other purposes will be permanently disabled and decommissioned*].

Para. 22:

To make public **whenever possible** or submit **voluntarily** to relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their national practices, information on, inter-alia: (a) small arms and light weapons confiscated or destroyed within their jurisdiction; (b) national laws and regulations and processes that impact on the prevention and reduction of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; and (c) any other information such as illicit trade routes and techniques that can contribute to the eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

At the regional level :

Para. 26:

To strengthen and establish, where appropriate and as agreed by the states concerned, [*regional or sub-regional moratoria on the transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons and/or*] regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and to respect such [*moratoria and/or*] action programmes and cooperate with the countries concerned in the implementation thereof, including through technical assistance and other measures.

Para. 28 :

To encourage regional and sub-regional action on **preventing the illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons **in all its aspects** in order to introduce or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

Para. 30: Delete the paragraph.

[*To develop appropriate measures to enhance transparency with respect to small arms and light weapons transfers, as a confidence-building measure and with a view to combating their illicit trade*].

At the global level :

Para. 34:

To support **in regions and sub-regions where conflicts have ended, the** disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants and their subsequent rehabilitation and reintegration into civil society and, in that context, the collection and destruction of illegally held small arms and light weapons, as well as the destruction of surpluses, and the inclusion, where required, of specific provisions in peace agreements.

Para. 35:

To develop **measures** [*international arrangements and a legally-binding instrument*] to enable the timely and reliable tracing of **illicit** lines of supply **of small arms and light weapons** by relevant **national** authorities, **with a view to eradicating such illicit lines of supply**.

Para. 36:

To encourage States and the World Customs Organization, as well as other relevant organizations, to [*consider*] enhance[*d*] cooperation [*with*] **and strengthen the capacities of** the International Criminal Police Organization –Interpol- to identify **and combat** groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

Para. 37:

To develop common understandings of the basic issues and the scope of the problems related to illicit [*arms*] brokering **in small arms and light weapons** with a view to **combating** [*regulating*] the activities of those engaged in [*arms*] **such** brokering.

Para. 38:

To encourage the relevant international and regional organizations and States to facilitate cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to **the illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons **in all its aspects**, in view of the important role that civil society plays in efforts to raise awareness of and address the problems associated with **the illicit trade in** such weapons.

Para. 38 bis: (Art. 5 (vi) of the Bamako Declaration)

To encourage States to accede to international legal instruments on terrorism and international organized crime, with a view to combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Section III: Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

Para. 2:

States undertake to cooperate and to ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in efforts to deal with **the illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons [*issues*] **in all its aspects**, at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Para. 3 :

The international community undertakes to render **financial and technical** assistance, [*to the extent possible*] **where needed**, to enable the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as contained in the Programme of Action.

Para. 4:

States, international and regional organizations should assist and promote conflict prevention measures **that address the root causes of conflicts,** and the pursuit of negotiated solutions to conflicts wherever possible.

Para. 6 :

With a view to facilitating implementation of the Programme of Action, States, international and regional organizations should assist **upon request** in building capacities in areas including the development of appropriate legislation and regulations, law enforcement, tracing, stockpile management and security, destruction of **illicit small arms and light** weapons and the collection and exchange of information.

Para. 7:

States should enhance cooperation, the exchange of experience and training among competent officials, including customs, police, intelligence and arms control officials, at the national, regional [*and*] sub-regional, **and international** levels**, with a view to combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects**.

Para. 9:

States are encouraged to use the facilities of Interpol, in particular through the timely and complete provision of information **on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons** to its International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System (IWETS) database or to any other database that may be developed **to combat the illicit trade in such weapons**.

Para. 10:

International cooperation to examine technologies, which are both affordable and accessible to all producers, and which would improve the tracing and detection of **illicit** small arms and light weapons, should be encouraged.

Para. 11:

States undertake to cooperate with each other, including on the basis of existing regional legally binding instruments and with relevant international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, particularly by strengthening mechanisms based on the exchange of information **on the illicit trade in such weapons**.

Para. 12:

States undertake to exchange information **on a voluntary basis**, on their national marking systems on small arms and light weapons, **without revealing information that may endanger national security or legitimate commercial interests, or undermine law enforcement efforts**.

Para. 16:

With respect to regions and sub-regions where conflicts have ended and where serious problems are experienced with [*excessive and destabilizing accumulations and spread of*] **illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons **in all its aspects**, the relevant regional and international organizations should support, within available resources, all appropriate post-conflict programmes related to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

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The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and has the honour to request that Argentina's general comments on the revised draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1), enclosed herewith (see annex), be circulated as an official document of the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

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Annex

Drafting proposals submitted by Argentina for document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1

[Original: English]

Section I. Preamble

- Reinsert paragraphs 10, 16, 25 and 28 of document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4.
- Reformulate paragraph 20 (e) to read:

"Assuming responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects."

Section II. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

At the national level

Paragraph 2

- Begin with the first part of paragraph 4 and rephrase as follows:

"2. To put in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over ***the production of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction and over the export, import, transit or retransfer of such weapons, in order to prevent unauthorized manufacture of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, or their diversion to unauthorized recipients.***"

Paragraph 4

- Include at the end of the paragraph the second part of existing paragraph 4 and rephrase as follows:

"4. ***To adopt the necessary legislative or other measures to establish as a criminal offence under their domestic law the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in order*** to ensure that those engaged in ***such activities*** can and will be prosecuted under appropriate penal codes."

Paragraph 5

"To ensure that manufacturers apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each small arm and light weapon as an integral part of the production process. This marking should be ***a*** unique, ***reliable mark at an essential part of the weapon, and recoverable if externally erased***, should identify the country of manufacture and also provide information that enables the national authorities of that country to identify the manufacturer and serial number, so that the authorities concerned can identify and trace each weapon."

Paragraph 19

"To carry out public destruction events in the interests of awareness-raising and confidence-building."

Paragraph 20

"***To adopt steps towards*** the prohibition of unrestricted trade and private ownership of small arms and light weapons specifically designed for military purposes."

Paragraph 21

"To develop and implement, ***where they are needed and*** do not exist, effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in post-conflict situations."

Paragraph 23

"To undertake public-awareness programmes to reduce the demand for small arms and light weapons, ***and to encourage voluntary disposal in order to promote and consolidate a culture of non-violence***."

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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Department for Disarmament Affairs) and has the honour to request that the attached proposals of amendments to A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1, presented by the Brazilian delegation (see annex), be circulated as an official document of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

01-32231 (E) 200401

Annex

Proposals submitted by Brazil for document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1

Preamble

Para 9: Rephrase as follows:

"Reaffirming also the right of each State to import, produce and retain small arms and light weapons [at levels consistent with] **for** its legitimate self-defence and security needs."

Para 12: Rephrase as follows:

"[Recognizing] **Stressing** the necessity for **and importance of** cooperation and assistance to support and facilitate efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

Para 13: Rephrase as follows:

"Recognizing that the international community has an obligation to deal with this issue, and acknowledging that the challenge posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects is multi-faceted and involves security, **crime prevention**, humanitarian and development dimensions."

Paragraph 20 (d): Rephrase as follows:

"Mobilizing the political will throughout the international community to prevent and combat illicit transfers and manufacturing of small arms and light weapons in all their aspects, **to cooperate towards these ends** and raise awareness of the character and seriousness of the interrelated problems associated with the illicit traffiicking in and manufacture of small arms and light weapons and the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of these weapons."

SECTION II

Para 9: Rephrase as follows

"To assess applications for export authorizations according to strict national or regional [criteria] **norms and procedures** that cover all categories of small arms and light weapons."

Para 13: Delete or rephrase

Para 22. Rephrase as follows

"To make public **national laws and regulations and processes that impact on the prevention and reduction of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons** [or] **and** submit to relevant regional and international organizations, **upon request and** in accordance with their national practices, information on, inter alia: (a) small arms and light weapons confiscated or destroyed within their jurisdiction; [(b) national laws and regulations and processes that impact on the prevention and reduction of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;] and [(c)] **(b)** any other information such as illicit trade routes and techniques that can contribute to the eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons."

Para 23. Rephrase as follows:

"To encourage States to undertake, **with the assistance, whenever possible, of non-governmental organizations,** public awareness programmes to reduce the demand for small arms and light weapons."

Para 29. Rephrase as follows:

"To prevent and remove, **taking into account the characteristics, scope and magnitude of the problem in each region,** avoidable inconsistencies or incoherence between various measures and procedures at the regional, subregional and global levels which could undermine the overall effectiveness of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects."

Para 30. Rephrase as follows:

"To develop [appropriate] **adequate** measures to enhance transparency with respect to small arms and light weapons transfers, [as a confidence-building measure and] with a view to combating their illicit trade **and, when appropriate, as a confidence-building measure.**"

Para 32: Move to Section IV, Follow-up

Para 35: Rephrase as follows:

"To develop international arrangements and a legally binding instrument to enable the timely and reliable tracing of lines of **illegal** supply by relevant authorities."

Para 38. Rephrase as follows

"To encourage the relevant international and regional organizations and States to facilitate cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to small arms and light weapons, in view of the important role that civil society plays in efforts to **mobilize public opinion,** raise awareness of and address, **in assistance to States,** the problems associated with such weapons.

SECTION III

Para 1: Rephrase as follows:

"We, the States participating in the Conference, recognize that the responsibility for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects falls on all States, regardless of their role in the situation. We also recognize that this illicit trade cannot be prevented or reduced [by States alone] **if its combat is based on isolated action by States or regions.**"

Para 10. Rephrase as follows:

"International cooperation to examine technologies, which are both affordable and accessible to all producers, and which would improve the tracing and detection of small arms and light weapons, **as well as measures to facilitate the transfer of such technologies,** should be encouraged.

Para 17. Rephrase as follows:

"With respect to such regions and subregions, greater efforts should be made to address the security aspects of development. **This approach should not hamper existing and future social and developmental activities and should fully respect the rights of the States concerned to establish priorities in their programmes.**"

Section IV

Brazil is flexible with respect to the format of the follow-up mechanism. However, we have strong preference for a format that would allow for a dynamic, universal and effectively *multilateral* follow-up to the July Conference. The structure of the mechanism suggested by L.4/Rev.1, based on the convening of large meetings every two years, may not be enough to allow for the dynamism our efforts require. Moreover, it could be burdensome and costly. We suggest that we build on the idea contained in the previous version of the draft programme of action regarding the establishment of an *ad hoc* mechanism.

Para.1: Rephrase as follows

"1. We, the States participating in the United Nations Conference [...] recommend to the General Assembly the following agreed steps to be undertaken for the effective follow-up of the Conference:

(a) to establish an *ad hoc* follow-up mechanism subsidiary to the UN General Assembly;

(b) to convene regional or subregional follow-up meetings and conferences, including technical seminars, with the assistance of, *inter alia*, the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations;

(c) to convene a Review Conference no later than 2006 to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action."

Include a para. 2bis, as follows:

"The ad-hoc mechanism will be in charge of examining ways and means to further strengthen and develop measures contained in the Programme of Action, including negotiation of an international instrument to identify and trace the illegal lines of supply of small arms and light weapons."

Transform para. 2 into para.3, and rephrase it as follows:

"3. Finally, we, the States participating in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects:

(a) [Encourage the] **Welcome further initiatives by** United Nations and other appropriate international and regional organizations [to undertake initiatives] to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) Strongly encourage all initiatives to mobilize resources and expertise to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and to provide assistance to States in their implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through the Departament of Disarmament Affairs, to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis on small arms and light weapons, and to distribute in the *ad hoc* follow-up mechanism the national reports submitted by States on implementation of the Programme of Action. [similar phrasing to para. 32 of Section II of L.4/Rev.1]

(d) Further encourage non-governmental organizations and civil society to be engaged as partners, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts to implement this Programme of Action."